

## A SECOND SPECIES OF PRISTOLAEELAPS (ACARINA, LAELAPTIDAE) FROM AUSTRALIA

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### SUMMARY

The genus *Pristolaelaps* was described by Womersley, 1956, with *P. tasmanicus* sp. n. as genotype. Further records of this species are here given for South Australia and a second species *P. obovata* sp. n. is described from Victoria.

The genus *Pristolaelaps* with *P. tasmanicus* sp. n. as the type was described by the writer (1956) and the genus defined as follows:

*Female*.—Elongate oval, with undivided dorsal shield entirely covering dorsum. Palpal tarsus with 2-tined seta. Pre-endopodal shields present. Sternal shield longer than wide with three pairs of setae. Metasternal shields only represented by seta. Genital, ventral and anal shields coalesced, the combined shield widened behind coxae IV. Exopodal shields fused and extending widely behind coxae IV. Peritremal shield separated from exopodal by a narrow line of cuticle, ending opposite coxae IV and with stigma between coxae III and IV. Legs slender, unarmed.

*Male*.—Unknown.

*Genotype*.—*Pristolaelaps tasmanicus* sp. nov."

With the discovery of the following second species of the genus, the above diagnosis requires amending in some minor details. The shape varies from elongate oval to broadly oval and the sternal shield may be about as long as wide as well as longer than wide.

### Genus PRISTOLAEELAPS Womersley, 1956.

*Pristolaelaps* Womersley, 1956, "On some new Acarina-Mesostigmata from Australia, New Zealand and New Guinea," J. Linn. Soc. London, Zoology, 42 (228), p. 571. (Type: *Pristolaelaps tasmanicus* sp. nov.)

### *Pristolaelaps obovata* sp. nov.

Fig. 1, A-E

*Types*.—Holotype female and one paratype female in the collection of the South Australian Museum.

*Locality*.—Koroit, Victoria, August 23rd, 1935 (coll. R. T. M. Pescott).

*Description of Female*.—A very strongly chitinised, dark brown species of broadly oval shape.

*Dorsum* with entire dorsal shield which underlaps narrowly on to the venter, surface smooth and apparently without setae except for a few minute ones on the underlapping strip.

*Venter*.—Generally as figured and as in the genus with the genital, ventral and anal shields coalesced and expanded behind coxae IV. Pre-endopodal shields present and transversely elongate; sternal shield about as long as broad with concave anterior margin and almost straight posterior margin, with 3 pairs of setae 47 $\mu$  long and in almost straight oblique lines, with 2 pairs of pores,

\* South Australian Museum.

length of shield in median line  $99\mu$ , maximum width  $197\mu$ ; metasternal shields absent and only represented by the setae; genito-ventri-anal shield large and occupying most of the venter behind coxae IV, anterior margin lightly rounded and fibrillated, expanding behind coxae IV to  $300\mu$ , then rounding to include the anus, with 5 pairs of setae besides the 3 anal setae, surface faintly reticulate; endopodal shields of coxae III and IV distinct; exopodal shields coalesced and produced behind coxae IV as a triangular podal shield; metapodal shields

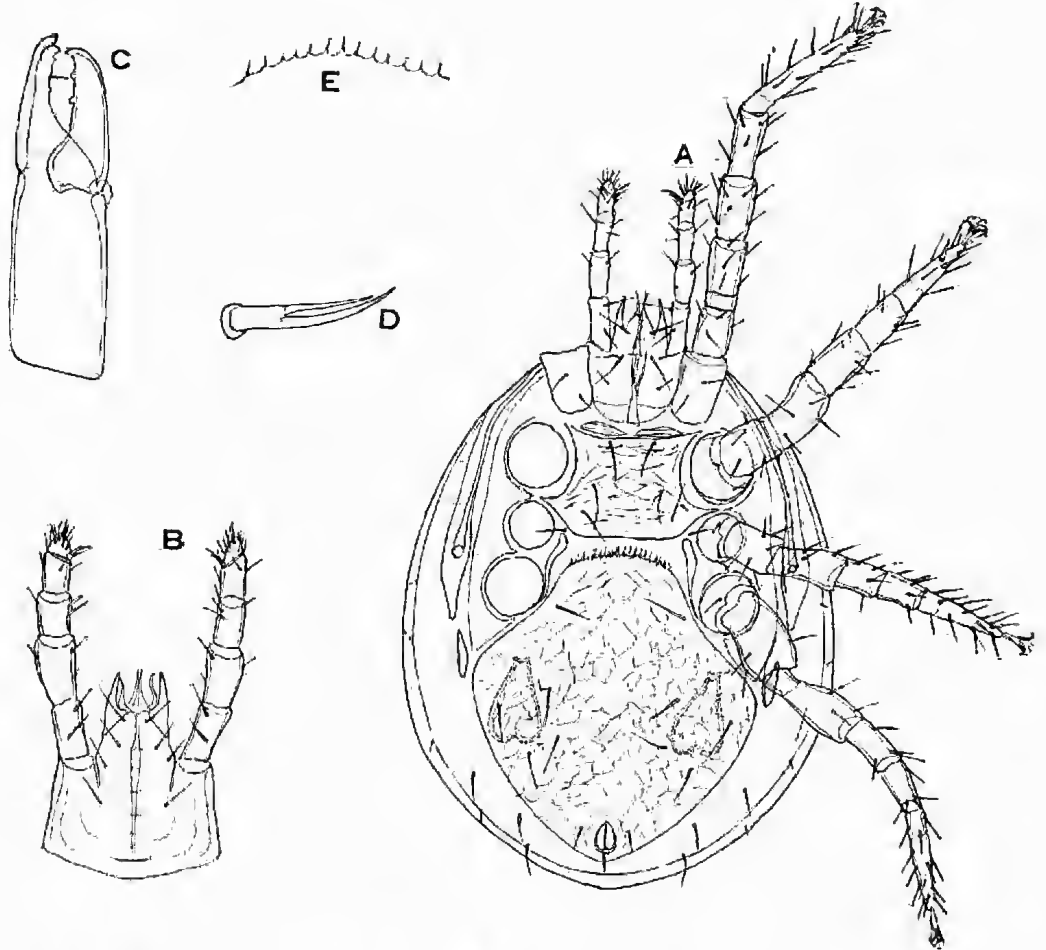


Fig. 1

*Pristolaclaps obovata* sp. nov. Female: A, venter; B, gnathosoma from below; C, chelicerae; D, tined seta of palpal tarsus; E, tectum.

elongate oval. Stigma between coxae III and IV and peritreme running forward to coxae I, on a distinct peritremal shield well separated from the exopodal shields, rather widened in the region of the stigma and extending posteriad to the margin of coxae IV. On the cuticle laterad of the genito-ventri-anal shield with 3 long setae on each side. A pair of well chitinised spermatheca are clearly to be seen (Fig. 1 A).

*Gnathosoma* as figured; palpi and cornicles normal.

*Chelicerae* as figured, movable digit with two small teeth, fixed digit with a prominent subapical tooth and four smaller ones, two on each side of the pilus dentilis. Tectum denticulate.

*Legs* all shorter than idiosoma, I  $598\mu$  long with normal ambulacral arrangement, II  $383\mu$ , III  $360\mu$ , IV  $487\mu$ ; all without special armature. Dimensions of idiosoma, length  $580\mu$ , width  $464\mu$ .

*Remarks.*—This species differs from the genotype in the much greater sclerotisation, its broader shape and in the length and shape of the sternal shield.

***Pristolaelaps tasmanicus* Womersley, 1957**

*Pristolaelaps tasmanicus* Womersley, 1957, J. Linn. Soc. London, Zoology, **42** (228), p. 571.

*New Records.*—Originally described from Burnley, Victoria, on strawberry plants imported from Tasmania, this species has now been found in moss from: Upper Sturt, S. Australia, 19/9/58 (G. F. Gross). Naracoorte, S. Australia, 8/1/59 (P. Aitken).